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PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2157**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Elizabeth F. CHURCHILL et al.

Group Art Unit: 2157

Application No.: 09/733,894

Examiner: H. El Chanti

Filed: December 12, 2000

Docket No.: 107724

For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SUPPORTING DOCUMENT CENTERED
DISCUSSION ACROSS HETEROGENEOUS DEVICES AND DISPLAYS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the February 9, 2005 Final Rejection, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, of which claims 7 and 8 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative at the personal interview conducted March 21, 2005. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,434,599 to Porter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Porter does not disclose "invitation information for the document-centered discussion," or "wherein the view information includes information which allows users of each of the heterogeneous display devices to collaborate within a document on which the document-centered discussion is based," as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claim 4. Applicants submit that Porter does not deal with document-centered discussions at all.

Porter discloses methods for dynamic formation of chat sessions among visitors to an information page of an information site on a network. Visiting users are invited to join a chat by an initiating user, who sends his descriptive information to the visiting users, and informs them of his or her interest to chat. If the visiting user consents to the chat session, the chat session is initiated.

However, as discussed during the personal interview, Porter does not describe the chat as a "document-centered discussion." Porter fails to describe, for example, that the chat pertains to the information page that the users are visiting. In fact, Porter compares its system to that of a store or establishment that "tends to draw patrons of particular demographics or interests, nevertheless, in each of these situations, people talk or chat about whatever topics that interest them at the moment. There is no need to preregister to get a user-ID, set up a password, fill out a profile, log in to a chat room at a scheduled time, and out of courtesy, fundamentally constrain one's conversation to expressions substantially related to the theme of the particular chat room." (See column 1, lines 45-53.) Accordingly, there is no disclosure in Porter that the chat occurring in the chat rooms will be centered on the information page that the visitor is visiting, any more so than visitors to a coffee shop would be expected to chat about the coffee shop.

Since there is no document-centered discussion disclosed in Porter, there is also no "invitation information regarding invitation to join at least one document-centered

discussion," as recited in claim 1, or "invitation information for the document-centered discussion," as recited in claim 4. Furthermore, there is no "document on which the document-centered discussion is based," as recited in both claims 1 and 4.

As set forth in MPEP §2131, "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Applicants respectfully submit that Porter does not expressly or inherently disclose "a document-centered discussion."

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Porter does not disclose each and every feature recited in independent claims 1 and 4. Claims 2-3 and 9-20 depend from claim 1, and claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4. Therefore, claims 2-3 and 9-20 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, and claims 5 and 6 are patentable for at least the reason set forth above with respect to claim 4. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

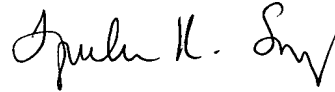
The Office Action rejects claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Porter in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,415 to Guck. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Guck does not remedy the deficiencies of Porter with respect to claim 1. Claims 9-11 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the reason set forth above with respect to claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jaquelin K. Spong
Registration No. 52,241

JAO:JKS/scg

Date: March 24, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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